

**Walworth County  
Intergovernmental Cooperation Council  
(ICC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

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The meeting was called to order by Moderator Mark Lubberda, County Administrator, at 6: 01 p.m.

Roll was called by municipality. In attendance by phone were Mark Lubberda, County Administrator; Joe Klarkowski, Town of East Troy; Joe Kopecky, Town of Geneva; Jim Weiss, Town of Linn; John Kendell, Town of Troy; Jane Stiles, Village of Darien; Scott Seager, Village of East Troy; Pat Kenny, Village of Fontana; Bill Antti, Village of Genoa City; Fred Winchowky, Village of Mukwonago; Mark Ruosch, Village of Sharon; Tom Connelly, Village of Walworth; James Heilman, City of Elkhorn Charlene Klein, City of Lake Geneva; Lynn Binnie, City of Whitewater; Nancy Russell, County Board Chair; John Olson, Town of Delavan.

Others in attendance by phone: Susan Steele, Shannon Haydin, Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management; Village of Sharon; Dave Nord, City of Lake Geneva; Emily Kornak, Lake Geneva Library Director; Neal Kolb, WalCoMet,; and Brian Holt, Walworth County Supervisor.

**Approval of October 28, 2019 ICC Meeting minutes.** Motion by Russell/Seager. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

There was none.

**Presentation on 2021 enhanced County efforts to support and pursue funding for farmer-led watershed protection groups for the purpose of improving water quality (County Board Supervisor Brian Holt).**

Cameron Clapper, City of Whitewater joined the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Walworth County Supervisor Brian Holt stated included in the 2021 budget, the county is looking to hire an LTE position within LURM to assist and coordinate funding opportunities available to farmers and agriculture businesses in the county to promote watershed protection. Any associated costs are anticipated to be recouped in the future from funds received from participating in these programs. The main grant for Farmer Led Watershed Groups comes from Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Successful coordination next spring will most likely result in this grant coming to Walworth County and those funds will form a good foundation for what they are looking to accomplish. The first task of the LTE position would be managing the finances, money distribution, record keeping, contact lists, as well as the grant application itself. The second task would be to seek out additional funding sources that also apply to farmers participating in the DATCP program. The third task would be website creation. This technology would allow farmers to enter address and see the

programs they would be eligible to participate in. Also, applications can be filled out online. Holt encouraged members to relay this information to their respective municipality so people can anticipate this program to start in the near future. The goal is to find and provide resources and additional funding options that would support watershed protection, increase participation in good practices with tangible financial incentives.

Village president of East Troy, Scott Seager questioned how this would affect municipalities whose water treatment plants depend on relationships with farmers for water cleanliness. Holt replied that ideally they would not be affected at all; just coordinate better with those so they do not have to physically seek out participants. Walworth County Chair, Nancy Russell stated that years ago SEWRPC had a program where they discovered the ground water, deep and shallow aquifer, and how much of the water was available to Walworth County. Since the county is not located on any of the Great Lake boundaries, the county cannot draw water from the Great Lakes so it is very important we have water through ground water resources. Russell suggested SEWRPC be contacted and request they provide an update on the available ground water resources.

#### **Walworth County 2021 budget initiatives.**

County Administrator, Mark Lubberda discussed an overview of major components and new initiatives of the county's 2021 budget. The first initiative is the Health and Human Services-law enforcement partnership, which is an embedded response pilot program. The pilot program will enable and embed crisis intervention specialists within local law enforcement departments to address the current challenges impacting those experiencing social economic stressors and other disparities. These challenges have been exacerbated by the global pandemic. Many calls to law enforcement have been identified as being service related and officers have limited options and difficult positions determining how to best resolve incidents related to mental health or substance use. To support law enforcement and provide individuals with rapid response, crisis intervention specialists' time is being reallocated to specifically support law enforcement efforts.

Two embedded positions are funded partially by Medicaid reimbursement, a grant, and tax levy. Based up on historical case data, Health and Human Services has started working with the City of Delavan and Whitewater police departments and have begun meeting to define how the partnership will strengthen services. Staff will be on site in the departments during peak call time and will be on call 24/7 to ensure more immediate community-based accessibility and availability both for youth and adults. The pilot will also include cross training that focuses on education and skills building in mental health crisis response and real time learning-utilizing post incidents and debriefing processes. Although embedded within a department of a specific municipality, it also creates a proximity issue, where the expectation is that they will be able to provide enhanced accessibility to areas surrounding each of those specific communities. The pilot program success will focus on decreasing demands on police officer time responding to mental health and substance use crisis, reduce repeat involvement, and provide quality mental health care in the least restrictive environment. The hope is to increase the likelihood that the incident remains more stable and the individual will become engaged in additional services and achieve long-term positive results. Village president of Walworth, Tom Connelly questioned if the pilot program related to transport and addressed the need for transportation to mental health

facilities or if it was just within the county. Luberda replied the program is intended to just be within the county. The program is intended to focus on meeting people in their homes to help once the scene is stabilized; the crisis intervention specialist would be able to take over. Some of that mediation and continued calming of the environment can happen with the crisis intervention specialist instead of law enforcement.

Another county initiative is the creation of a risk management position. The county is creating a separate division to help focus on contract and insurance issues to increase level of risk management. Also, the county has recognized for many segments of society, historic methods of disseminating information is no longer sufficient and is no longer reaching the audiences because a lot of people are getting their news from social media. A half time communications coordinator position will focus on addressing and disseminating county information. Through the proper social media outlets where citizens are getting their information, doing so in a way that enables the county to respond to make sure accurate information is out there and attempt to turn the tide on misinformation on actions and steps the county may or may not be taking. Incorporated into the 2021 budget for the Lakeland Health Care Center, is the reduction to a 90-bed facility. Realistically this would not be a reduction in services to the county because after market studies, there is not a demand for as many beds as the county has licenses for. The new model enables the county to operate at an appropriate level, maintaining the current levy support. The county supports both congregate meal programs as well as the Meals-on-Wheels program. The Lakeland Health Care Center kitchen will be providing and preparing those meals in their new format with a grant where there is much more scratch-baked meals with improved nutritional value and fresher foods.

The 2021 budget continues to keep the county as a debt-free county. An aspect the county created was a revenue stabilization program. The county looked at a couple of the major funding areas, which are sales tax; interest income; and, fees and penalties on property taxes. The county took some excess sales tax revenue and established a fund over 2 million dollars that in case those revenues come in short one year, the county can pull from that fund to maintain at least the budgeted level for that year to avoid having to partial operations, layoff people, or hiring freezes. Gives ability to provide residents with stabilized services and not at risk of short term or rapid economic downturns. The community initiatives the county participates in (Walworth County Agricultural Society, Walworth County Fair, Association for the Prevention of Family Violence, Historical Society, and, Visitor's Bureau) continue for 2021 at the same level. Similarly, some of the county parks are funding at a slight increase for capital but otherwise funded similarly, to what they were in 2020.

### **Open discussion on public services and governmental operations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Luberda stated, every Tuesday through December 8<sup>th</sup>, the county will have a testing site at Lakeland Community Church. The county is trying to provide some ready access and hoping to increase the number of tests available to 500 but, it is based upon what the Wisconsin National Guard is able to provide. This is in conjunction of the tri county group of Kenosha and Racine because they have regular sites on each of the other four days.

Town chairperson of East Troy, Joe Klarkowski brought up the concern of people refusing to wear masks in the building as required to do so. Luberda explained the Government Center is currently only allowing access for non-employees at one entrance with screeners to help control the number of people going into departments. If there is someone who does not want to wear a mask, there is a separate service table for that person to sit at and be serviced by a staff member from the respective department in hopes to contain potential impact of the individual not wearing a mask.

Jason Collins, Town of Lafayette joined the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Another feature the county has done is upgrading the technology in a larger space so the county can separate individuals attending meetings whom do not want to wear mask from the other group and still communicate with each other.

Luberda participates in a weekly call with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) whom are very closely attached to the governor's office. Luberda is hearing that although the Department of Administration (DOA) is saying their deadline for spending CARES money is still November 6<sup>th</sup>, they are actively considering moving it back. Luberda has been really pushing for the DOA to move the deadline back so the county can use the money for its own staff costs. The senate, house, and president are considering new funding packages which will all have an extension of the deadline that are currently December 30<sup>th</sup> going forward. There are two separate pieces of legislation that if a new package doesn't move the deadline that would extend the deadline for current funding.

The next meeting of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council was confirmed for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at the call of the moderator at 6:51 p.m.

*Submitted by Mark W. Luberda, County Administrator.*